



## CONSERVATION AND HERITAGE COMMITTEE

### FOREWORD

We thank Fiona Hyland, this journal's first editor from 2008 to 2014, and our mentor, for the very unique name, certainly inspired by the Bard's Romeo and Juliet's Act II Scene II:

*"What's in a name? That which we call a rose  
by any other name would smell as sweet"*

At the WFRS Convention in Lyon, France, in May, we were approved as the new editors, publishing online under the aegis of the newly-combined Conservation and Heritage Committee, to be led by Yuki Mikanagi as Chair and David Elliott as Vice Chair, both great supporters of BAON. Please see their Reports in this issue's final section. In our view the merging of the two is most sensible—indeed, synergetic—and we will aim to blend them as well in our selection of articles, from hard science to reflections on a single rose, from travel through rose gardens to profiles of great but maybe forgotten rose breeders. We hope this issue reflects that.

Reports on all the WFRS conventions and other activities can be found on [www.worldrose.org](http://www.worldrose.org), as well as the current issue of BAON. Eager readers can receive each new issue directly as a PDF file, as well as PDFs of all previous issues. Simply email your name, postal address, rose group affiliation (if any), and your email address to Crenagh Elliott who manages circulation: [theelliotts@shaw.ca](mailto:theelliotts@shaw.ca)

It is a big and diverse rose world, and we will depend on BAON readers and friends to send us ideas for authors or subjects, or articles already written or published, or, especially, their own newly-written articles which will merit the most serious consideration. We are Nimet Monasterly-Gilbert and Alan Gilbert, at :

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# *NATURAL HABITATS OF WILD ROSES IN JAPAN AND THEIR CONSERVATION*

by Yuki Mikanagi

Japan is a small country, and about 73 percent of its area is taken up with mountains and hills. Most of the population live in cities and towns in very limited usable flatlands. When considering the conservation of wild roses in this country, it is necessary to frame appropriate policies, taking into account the varied local habitats, and the relationship between nature and humans living there. This is a report on the present states of our activities to conserve wild roses native to Japan, and on the problems we face there.



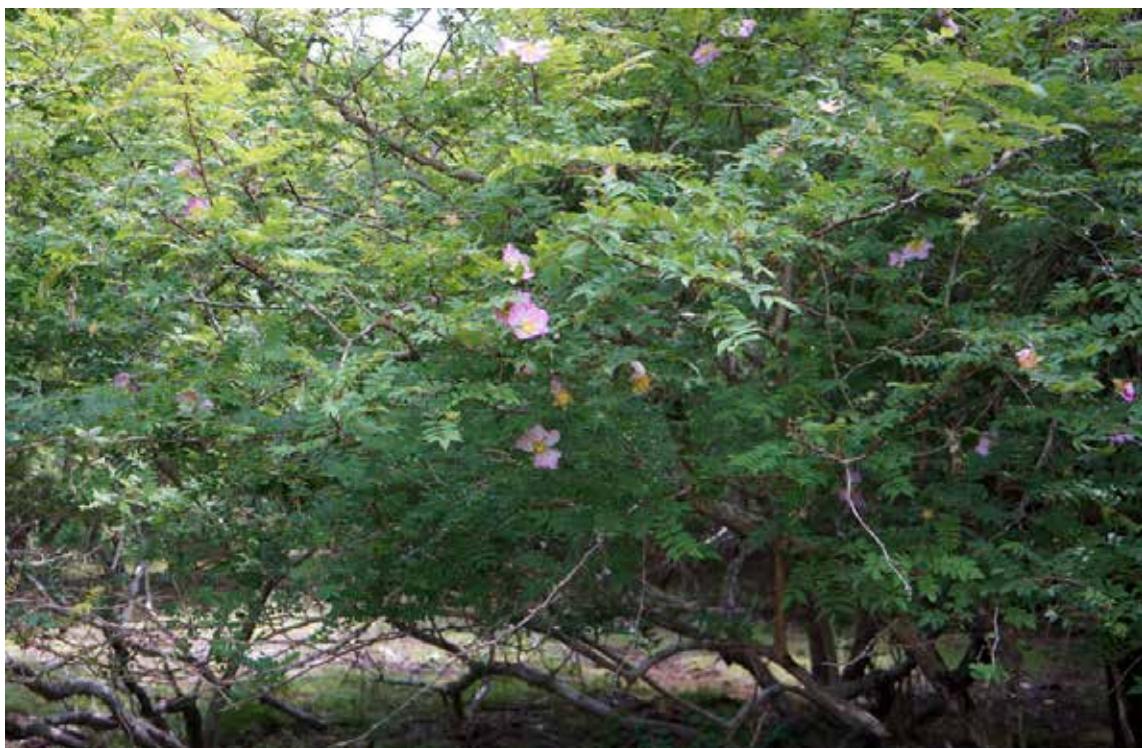
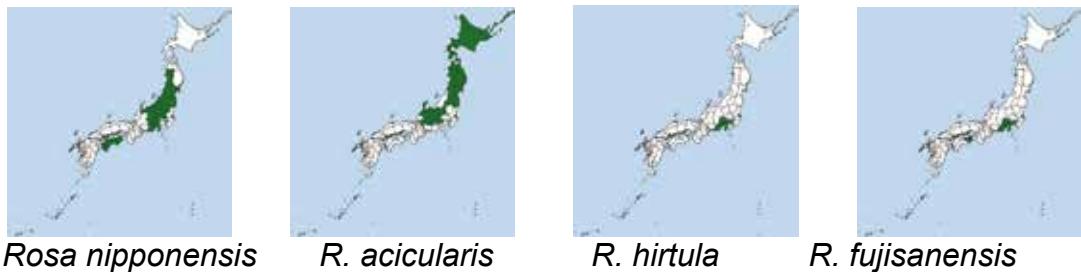
*Rosa multiflora var. adenochaeta* in Kumagawa riverside  
(photo by Keiji Yamaguchi)

## **1 Natural Habitats of Wild Roses in Japan**

### **(1) Alpine Roses: those in national parks**

In Japan there are 31 national parks and 54 quasi-national parks so designated with the aim of preserving the finest natural spectacles for the next generation and beyond. Many of them are known as natural habitats of alpine roses native to Japan. In Fuji-Hakone-Izu national park, we can find *Rosa nippensis*, *R. hirtula* and *R. fujisanensis*. Since they are protected by rangers, and visitors fully understand the importance of

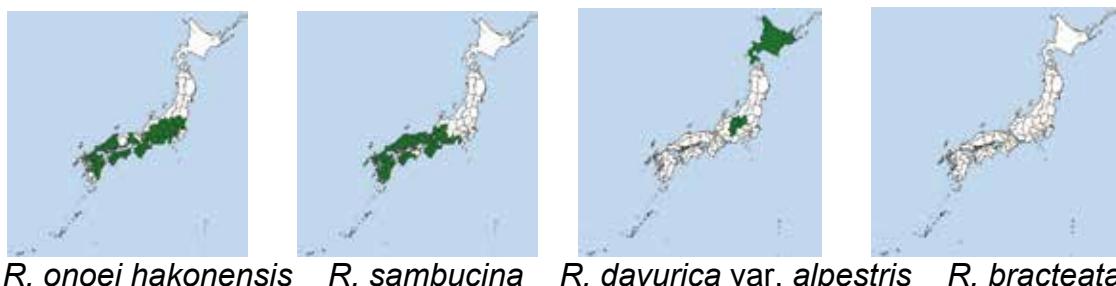
plants and animals in the park, we don't need to worry so much about the wild roses in national parks.



*Rosa hirtula* in Mt. Ashitaka (photo by Yuki Mikanagii)

(2) Roses in Hilly Areas: those growing in forests or in commonage taken care of by humans.

Naturally, roses love sunshine, and they cannot live in dark primeval forests. We can find *R. onoei hakonensis* and *R. sambucina* in forestry areas, mainly near woodland paths or streams. Commonage is ideal for the survival of wild roses. Since cattle only eat plants without thorns, we do not worry much about their loss. *R. davurica alpestris* is found in commonage in colder regions, and *R. bracteata* is found in commonage in Iriomote-jima, an island in the southern sea. The fate of these roses largely depends on the attitudes of forestry workers and stock farmers in the area.



*R. onoei hakonensis*   *R. sambucina*   *R. davurica* var. *alpestris*   *R. bracteata*

(3) Roses in Satoyama (woodlands and fields near human habitats): those which sometimes grow near rice paddies

'Satoyama', found in many places in Japan, is a special area known for its rich biodiversity. Roses in Satoyama are those most familiar to us for more than one thousand years. Recently, they face the menace of urban development and introgressive hybridization by our garden roses. The roses shown below all belong to sect. Synstylae; however, when they suffer introgression, their styles separate like those we see in modern roses.



*R. multiflora*   *R. onoei*   *R. onoei* var. *oligantha*   *R. paniculigera*



*R. multiflora*

*R. onoei*



*R. onoei* var. *oligantha*

*R. paniculigera*

#### (4) Roses on Riversides and Seashores

Though riversides and seashores are good habitats full of sunshine, natural disasters such as Tsunami and severe flooding sometimes modify their landforms. Roses on riversides and seashores often face, besides the menace of such natural disasters, damage caused by bank protection work. For example, *R. rugosa* used to be distributed widely in northern parts of Japan; however, it is difficult to find many natural colonies now. Not just bank protection work, but attempts to revegetate the area with genetically different *R. rugosa* plants obtained from other localities, have totally destroyed the original colony. Pure natural colonies are found only in Hokkaido and a few other islands.



*R. multiflora adenochaeta*   *R. luciae*

*R. luciae* f. *grandulifera*

*R. rugosa*



*Rosa rugosa* in seashore of Notsuke in Hokkaido (photo by Makoto Hiraoka)

## **2 Ex-Situ Conservation of Wild Roses in Rose Gardens and Botanical Gardens**

Some rose gardens and botanical gardens in Japan, e.g. Hamadera Park Rose Garden, the City of Sakura Rose Garden, Hakone Botanical Garden of Wetlands, and Echigo Hillside National Park, are all concerned with *ex-situ* conservation of wild roses. Hamadera Park Rose Garden especially has collected all the wild roses it preserves from their wild habitats, and boasts perfect data of their collection.

## **3 Problems We Have to Tackle from Now On**

To protect our natural habitats of roses, we have to solve the problems below:

- Coming to terms with large scale public works and urban development
- Controlling genetic pollution (introgression)
- Making a correct identification of species
- Rousing public interest in wild rose conservation

The conservation programme of *R. multiflora* var. *adenochaeta* in the Kuma riverside is a successful example run by an NPO in cooperation with city and town government offices. I hope we will share their experiences, and will see memorable achievements in many other places in the future.

*Dr. Yuki Mikanagi is curator of the Herbarium of the Natural History Museum and Institute, Chiba, Japan, and an active leader in WFRS affairs. This article was her illustrated lecture at the 3<sup>rd</sup> WFRS Regional Convention in Central Asia, in Hyderabad, India, November 29 to December 2, 2014; it also appeared in the Indian Rose Annual 2014. For complete coverage of the convention, please consult the WFRS web site. Contact: mikanagi@chiba-muse.or.jp*

## **1867 AND ALL THAT**

**by Crenagh and David Elliott**

Eighteen hundred and sixty seven: the introduction of the first known Hybrid Tea rose 'La France'. Hybrid Teas have become the backbone of florists' roses and the show bench. For shows the classification of Old Garden Rose (OGR) is a little confusing because many people assume that OGR's are roses bred before 1867 while the international classification according to the World Federation of Rose Societies is roses in classifications which existed before that date.



*Rosa nutkana*



*Rosa acicularis*

There are two types of roses which are clearly decided by the majority to be heritage. The first is rose species usually written in italics and the conventional format of Rosa species. This is understood to be the field of botanists or very specialist rose growers as the majority of rose species are not garden plants. The second type is found roses. Roses which are unidentifiable as to original name so are given a study name and usually written in double quotes i.e. Rosa "White lilac rose". This is the case with the Bermuda Mystery Roses. Many of the roses found in North America and the Southern hemisphere which were brought by immigrants from Europe fall into this category. Their importance was brought to public knowledge by a number of people starting in the middle of the twentieth century. Nancy Steen in New Zealand, Mrs. Frederick (Ethelyn Emery) Keays and Miriam Wilkins in the United States of America and Gwen Fagan in South Africa were early proponents of heritage roses. Rose Rustlers in Texas and California have found and preserved many roses of this type and the one following.

The last and largest group of heritage or historic roses are all those that have survived

with their original names. Some are important just because they are very old and probably exist because they were considered medicinal plants and are very easy to propagate. The Gallica and Alba groups fit here. There are the survivors of different fashions of roses like the moss and Scots roses where a few varieties of thousands created have survived. There are those like 'Mme A. Meilland' 1935 (a.k.a. 'Peace' 1945 Meilland not 'Peace' (1902) and 'Ophelia' 1912 which are parents of numerous popular varieties. There are also the roses which are not commercially available except from specialist nurseries or collectors. Heritage roses became somewhat popular in the 1970s and 1980s and a number of nurseries started propagating them to fill a demand. Peter Beales' Classic Roses in England and Vintage Gardens in the USA were in the forefront of this fashion as were several in New Zealand.

Old roses are addictive but beware of the public garden which must have a collection of heritage roses and does not have the enthusiasm to learn how to prune them so that they can look their best. In spite of this there are now a number of public and private gardens with large collections of roses both old and new. One thing to remember is that some (old) roses may be rare in one place and common in another and also that it is getting more and more difficult for roses to cross international borders.

In conclusion, enjoy your roses of all types. Remember the four "D"s of pruning: dead, damaged, diseased and decadent (or old). But do not worry about pruning as roses are forgiving of mistakes. Once blooming roses should be pruned after flowering, thinned like a raspberry, but not headed back as next year's buds will be cut off. Repeat blooming roses should be pruned in early winter if in a windy location, otherwise in early spring. These guidelines are extremely rough and your local rose society will be able to give much better advice than we can.

© Crenagh & David Elliott, this is a slight revision of an article which first appeared in Australian Rose Annual, January 2015. David is the WFRS Vice President for North America and Vice Chair for the combined Conservation and Heritage Committee; Crenagh is the email distributor for BAON. They live on the Pacific coast of Canada and welcome your comments: [theelliotts@shaw.ca](mailto:theelliotts@shaw.ca)



**'Mme A. Meilland' 1935  
a.k.a. 'Peace' 1945, Meilland**



**'Peace' (1902), Piper  
©Patricia Routley**

## ***JOHANNES FELBERG-LECLERC, 1872-1939***

***by Harald Enders***

Johannes Felberg was born in Trier (in English, Treves) on the banks of the Moselle on 15 November 1872, the youngest son of a nursery owner Peter Felberg and his wife Anna (née Prim). After his apprenticeship at the nursery of his father, Johannes worked as a trainee in the rose nurseries of Peter Lambert in St. Marien, Trier. During that time a friendship formed between the older Lambert and the younger Felberg that would last their lifetimes.

After his time with Lambert, Johannes was believed to have worked for a rose breeder in nearby Luxembourg. When he returned to Trier around 1902-03 to take over his father's nursery, he brought his wife Mimy Leclerc, daughter of a jeweller in Luxembourg city. From then on he carried the compound surname Felberg-Leclerc.

Shortly afterwards, Felberg-Leclerc converted the nursery into a specialized rose-growing enterprise, called "J. Felberg-Leclerc Spezial-Rosenkulturen". As a member of the Association of German Rose Breeders ("Verein Deutscher Rosenzüchter"), from 1907 to the beginning of the First World War, Felberg-Leclerc took part in many rose exhibitions, displaying roses from other breeders, some professionals, some amateurs--such as Ludwig (Louis) Walter from Zabern and Otto Jacobs from Weitenburg--but none yet of his own creations. He won numerous prizes: 1907 at Mannheim, 1908 and 1912 at Mönchengladbach, 1910 at Karlsruhe, 1911 at Britz near Berlin, 1911 at Zabern (now Saverne in Alsace, France), and 1913 at Forst Lausitz and at Breslau.

Finally, it was in 1913 that Felberg-Leclerc introduced into commerce the first of his own creations: 'Hofgärtner Kalb' ['Souvenir de Mme. Eugene Verdier' (HT) x 'Gruss an Teplitz'(B)], for which he won the Gold Medal First Prize at the Rose and Horticulture Exhibition at Breslau in 1913. Because of the 1914-1918 War and the economic and political strife in the years immediately following, it was only in 1920-21 that Felberg-Leclerc started rose breeding again. His rose cultures and stocks had survived the war and its consequences, but the rose business never again reached the pre-War level. In 1935 the Felberg-Leclerc rose nursery was closed and the lands sold as construction ground. Johannes died on 13 February 1939, survived by his wife Mimy who returned to Luxembourg.

Johannes is known to have created and introduced at least 18 new roses, including a sport of 'Louise Catherine Breslau' which he dedicated to Mimy as 'Frau Felberg-Leclerc'.

Presently eleven of his cultivars have survived, with ten still available commercially, and one 'Guillaume Kaempf' that can be found at the great European Rosarium at Sangerhausen, Germany. The following 11 photographs are those that have survived.



**Cilly Michel (HT)**  
1928 – ‘Mme. Melanie Soupert’ (HT) X  
‘Felbergs Rosa Drushki’ (HP) (#2047)



**Felberg’s Rosa Drushki (HP)**  
1913/1929 “Frau Karl Druschki”(HP)  
X ‘Farbenkonigin’ (HT)



**Frau Dr. Schricker (Ch)**  
1927- ‘Gruss an Teplitz’ (B) X  
‘Souvenir de Mme Eugene Verdier’ (T)



**Frau Felberg-Leclerc (Pern.)**  
1921 – Sport of  
‘Louise Catherine Breslau’ (Pern.)



**Frau Mathilde Batz (HT)**  
1920 - unnamed seedling X  
‘Ophelia’ (HT)



**Gruss an Coburg (HT)**  
1927 – ‘Alice Kaempff (HT) X  
‘Souv. de Claudio Pernet’ (Pern)



**Guillaume Kaempf (HT)**  
1931-‘Hadley’ (HT) X  
‘Admiral Ward’ (HT)



**Hofgartner Kalb (B)**  
1913-‘Souv. de Mme Eugene Verdier’(HT)  
X ‘Gruss an Teplitz’ (B)



**Kate Felberg (HT)**  
1930-unnamed seedling X  
‘Mrs. Wemyss Quin’ (HT)



**Lisbeth Prim (HT)**  
1934 – ‘Hadley’ (HT) X  
‘Lady Inchiquin’ (HT)



**M. Geier (HT)**  
1929 – ‘Augustus Hartmann’ X  
‘Admiral Ward’ (HT)

What follows is a list of the lost roses of Felberg-Leclerc. It is known that several were exported to the U.S. and other countries, so there may be a chance that one or more still survives, either under another name, or growing namelessly in a garden, the owner wondering what rose it might be. Most of the descriptions are taken from Jäger's *Rosenlexikon*, the *Rosenzeitung* (periodical of the German Rose Society, 1886-1933) and Möller's *Deutsche Gärtnerzeitung* (1886-1939).

'Alice Kaempff'(HT, 1920): 'General MacArthur'(HT) x 'Radiance'(HT). Bud oblong, flower globular, outer petals silky rose, veined carmine, with purple shading; inner petals silvery white with pink-lilac shadings, center silvery white, strong centifolia flavor, growth and foliage similar to 'General MacArthur.'

'Edith Felberg'(HT, 1931): Unnamed seedling x 'Souvenir de H.A. Verschuren'(HT); synonym: 'Seeding No. 3079.' Bud globular, flower creamy white with darker center, full, cup-shaped, very floriferous, solitary on strong stems, foliage thick, leathery, dark green, plant very disease resistant, medium growth.

'Francois Allard'(HT, 1927): 'Mme. Melanie Soupert'(HT) x 'Mme. Segond-Weber'(HT). Buds and flowers salmon-pink on the outside of the petals, creamy white on the inside, flower medium-large, fragrant, long stems.

'Frau Eduard Bethge'(HT, 1930): 'Hadley'(HT) x 'Admiral Ward' (HT). Deep cinnabar-red and velvety blood-red, reverse amaranth-colored, large, very double, lasting, solitary, fragrant, thick petals, large, elongated buds, long, strong stems, light green foliage, growth medium, upright.

'Frau Margarete Oppenheim'(Pern., 1927): 'Hortulanus Budde(HT) x 'Souvenir de Claudius Pernet'(Pern.). Vivid carmine to brick-red, red and yellow reflexes, large, semi-double, bell-shaped, lasting, cluster-flowered, floriferous, free-blooming, continuous bloom, long stems, light green foliage, growth 6/10, upright, broad.

'G. Michel'(HT, 1930): Unnamed seedling x 'The Queen Alexandra Rose'(HT); synonym 'J. Michel'. Deep golden-yellow, very large, double, floriferous, strong stems, thick foliage, growth 6/10, upright. Not to be confused with "Cilly Michel", another Hybrid Tea from Felberg-Leclerc.

'Geheimrat Richard Willstätter'(HT, 1931): 'Constance'(HT) x 'Mrs. Aaron Ward'(HT). Coppery apricot-yellow, pistils deep golden-yellow, petals strongly veined pink, large, semi-double, fragrant, floriferous, continuous bloom, strong stems, thick glossy light green foliage, medium growth, bushy.

'Rosa Boertz'(HT, 1914): Seedling of 'Kaiserin Auguste Viktoria' (HT). "...deserves

attention as a not to underestimate magnificent descendant of 'Kaiserin Auguste Viktoria' in the color of 'Souvenir de la Malmaison': salmon-pink, good habit, very fragrant..." Although this rose survived until the late 1920s, its connection with Felberg-Leclearc was already forgotten when Jäger wrote his *Rosenlexikon*.

*Article translated from the German by the author, Harald Enders whose book in 2006 on the Bourbon roses was—and remains—the first in German dealing exclusively with this class of roses. Enders and his wife live in Northern Germany, where he grows nearly 500 different rose cultivars, among them about 250 old German roses, collected over the past decade.*

The collection is on-line at: <http://fitzbek-rose-garden.jimdo.com/>  
His contact email is: [country-styles@web.de](mailto:country-styles@web.de)

## ***ROSA PERSICA AND ITS DESCENDANTS: GENETICS AND HISTORY***

**by Pascal Heitzler**

*Rosa persica* holds a special place in the classification of roses. Notably the heart of the flower, formed by the base of the petals, is very dark as one might observe in certain tulips, cistus or other hibiscus. From the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, amateurs have faced the challenges of growing it in order to maintain the species in cultivation. But in 1836, an accidental hybrid, *Rosa x hardii*, impassioned all rosarians. Despite dreaming of creating new varieties with dark eye centers, we would have to wait 150 years and the results of a colossal body of work for this to become reality. Today, in the market and at rose trials a good number of reblooming, healthy novelties are available, some of which even have a blue center! It is this history and the different pathways taken that I would like to summarize here.

### **The Botany**

Within the genus, *Rosa persica* is a very singular species. Its habitat ranges from the semi-arid regions to the steppes of central Asia (Iran, Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Xingjiang (China) and western Siberia), withstanding and adapting to extreme conditions of heat in summer

and of cold in winter. Unlike all other roses species, its curiously blue-grey leaves are entire and therefore lacking both leaflets and stipules. This evolution is probably due to its adaptation to the extreme dry conditions in which it thrives, a characteristic that arose after the differentiation of the genus *Rosa*. It is interesting to note that another small rose, *Rosa minutifolia*, from the arid southwestern regions of the United States, has also little leaves with only three leaflets. In nature, *Rosa persica* sends out underground runners, which allow the plant to explore the most favorable areas. The base of the yellow petals of the blooms are stained with a dark brown spot, creating what looks like a dark eye in the center. This singular color pattern is without doubt a result of a co-evolution with one or few specific pollinating insects. Due to its unique characteristics it was placed alone in a separate genus, that of *Hulthemia*, in honor of the Belgian botanist Charles van Hulthem, founder of the Ghent botanical garden. But the genetic makeup shows

that this rose integrates perfectly into the genetic pool of genus *Rosa*. *Hulthemia* has quite rightfully been demoted to a sub-genus<sup>1</sup>.

The species is invariably diploid ( $2N = 14$ ). As its range is very vast, there exists local variations in the intensity and shape of the blooms central eye. There is occasionally a plant whose blooms are missing the dark macule, but in such cases it is due to an accidental mutation resulting in the absence of anthocyanins, the usual pigments found in rose petals. A study done by Iranian researchers on 128 samples of *Rosa persica*, collected in different regions of Iran, has made it possible to evaluate the intrinsic genetic diversity of the species. Their work highlights the great diversity which exists in the genetic markers within the same geographic population<sup>2</sup>. The species appears to be auto-incompatible, with insects doing the cross pollination. In consequence, the dispersion of new specimens



*Rosa berberifolia* by  
Pierre-Joseph Redouté

through seeds in a given population prevails over the vegetative expansion. Nevertheless, *Rosa persica* being genetically far removed from other native rose species<sup>3</sup>, natural hybrids remain a rare occurrence. Edward Hyams found such a hybrid in the region of Sharud in Iran in 1972.

### Horticultural history

Upon his return in 1784 from Persia, André Michaux (1746-1802), botanist to the king, who had introduced numerous plants from Asia as well as the Americas<sup>4</sup>, described *Rosa persica*. This rose was grown in France at the Cels's nurseries as well as at those of Dupont, the purveyor of roses to the Empress Josephine for Malmaison. The rose was immortalized in a engraving by Pierre-Joseph Redouté under the name *R. berberifolia*<sup>5</sup>. But an unforeseen event created an upheaval in 1836 among rosarians with the appearance of *Rosa x hardii*, the first horticultural hybrid of *Rosa persica*.

Julien-Alexandre Hardy, head gardener of the Luxembourg garden in Paris had established a prestigious collection of roses. He carefully classified close to 2,000 varieties, both of wild botanical roses as well as the best cultivars of the time, making it at its height in 1837 the largest rose garden in Europe<sup>6</sup>. While walking amongst his roses, J-A Hardy one day noticed a well-formed hip on *Rosa clinophylla*, a white-flowered rose from the 'bracteata' group. Despite having been well established for several years, this rose had never born fruit. Hardy therefore took special care when planting the achenes of this unique harvest. Only two descendants reached maturity. The second specimen offered the most unexpected spectacle, yellow flowers with dark red blotches at the base of the petals. A bee had undoubtedly brought pollen from a vigorous *Rosa persica*, planted next to the mother plant located in the same bed. This hybrid, that exhibits spotted flowers like *Rosa persica* and leaflets like *Rosa clinophylla*, results from a cross of two plants whose biotopes are diametrically opposed: the arid steppes for the former and the monsoon-watered earth in India for the latter. Hardy entrusted several scions to his former employers, the Cels brothers. This rose became an instant success and was put on the market with the name *R. Hardii* by the Cels. It was multiplied throughout Europe but it was in the south of France that it thrived, able to reach two meters high. A good illustration of it can be found in Ellen Willmott's *The Genus Rosa*, (2 vols, 1910, 1914).



*Rosa X hardii* – illustration by  
A. Parsons in *The Genus Rosa*

Despite its historic and horticultural importance, *Rosa x hardii* has disappeared from the catalogues of nurseries as well as from numerous private collections. Both Vincent Derkenne<sup>6</sup> and Charles Quest-Ritson<sup>7</sup> launched appeals for it, and, happily, Mr. Quest-Ritson found an example in the garden of an impassioned rosarian who had carefully preserved it in Kent<sup>8</sup>. One hopes that we will see this rose again in the coming years.

### Genetics and Recent History

Inspite of *R. x hardii* being an accidental cross, we nonetheless know its exact pedigree. The coloring of the basal patch of *Rosa persica* is a hereditary characteristic and its

transmission is dominant. A confirmed deduction observed repeatedly in natural hybrids such as 'Edward Hyams' and in the numerous more recent controlled hybrids.

The discovery of *Rosa x hardii* set dreams soaring: Would it be possible to create through hybridization new roses with dark eyes? It was the wild challenge that Alec Cocker and Jack Harkness, two young British breeders who collaborated together from the start in the early 1960's, took on. That which had happened accidentally in 1836 should be able to be done in a controlled way 130 years later! They started by testing *Rosa x hardii* but unfortunately it is definitely sterile. Antoine Jacques, botanist and gardener to King Louis-Philippe had made the same observation shortly after the discovery made by J-A Hardy. One would have to return to the original species to accomplish this endeavour. Located on the edge of the phylogenetic scale of genus *Rosa*, a great number of crosses with different classes of roses had to be made in a gamble to obtain fertile hybrids and/or ones that could be commercialized. Alec had seeds brought from Iran, and the two friends put in place the best possible conditions for them to thrive in. *Rosa persica* must be planted in alkaline gravel, and submitted to periods of drought similar to many cacti.

A new era of steady work began that would last almost 20 years. Between 1968 and 1975 they were able to obtain 74 seedlings out of some 2,130 achenes collected<sup>9</sup>. Sadly, Alec died in 1977, and Jack continued the work alone adding 10,000 achenes between 1976 and 1985<sup>10</sup>. All the resulting hybrids were quite fragile, often attacked by cryptogamous diseases such as black spot. Some of the plants, while showing promise, died prior to being multiplied. After considerable efforts, Jack decided to put four cultivars on the market, which, despite their weak resistance to diseases, could be appreciated by caring rosarians. They now are part of the heritage of '*persica*', and along with *R. x hardii*, should be mentioned here.

**'Tigris'** (HARprier) introduced in 1985 is the result of a cross made in 1975 between *R. persica* and 'Trier'. A small bush with semi double yellow flowers and a dark red center blotch. **'Euphrates'** (HARunique) in 1986 from the 1976 cross (*R. persica* x 'Fairy Changeling'). A small spindly bush with simple salmon blooms and a scarlet red eye. **'Nigel Hawthorne'** (HARquibbler) in 1989 from a seedling of 1976 (*R. persica* x 'Harvest Home'). The large pale salmon blooms have a brownish center. **'Xerxes'** (HARjames) from a 1970 seedling and released in 1989 (*R. persica* x 'Canary Bird'). The large shrub has yellow blooms with a brilliant red eye. Unfortunately, it is hard to propagate.



'Tigris' - (HARprier)

After so many years of sacrifice and hard work, the final tally was only a handful of primary hybrids, all which were once-blooming and almost all sterile. But the availability of these clones would quickly relaunch the adventure.

Several impassioned rosarians in England and in California noticed that 'Tigris' could, given optimal conditions, produce fertile hips and a new adventure of 30 years was opened up by this lineage. They produced a second generation of hybrids, triploids, some of which were fertile. In the USA, Ralph Moore introduces 'Persian Autumn', 'Persian Flame', 'Persian Light', 'Persian Sunset' and the third generation hybrid, 'Persian Peach'. Strongly impressed

by Moore's results, Jim Sproul, a Californian doctor, established his own breeding stock with 'Tiggle', a seedling of Chris Warner, 'Persian Sunset' and his own 'Tigris' offsprings. Jim has recently developed his successful 'Eyeconic Lemonade' series. In UK, Chris Warner, a former schoolteacher who was completely enchanted by Jack Harkness plants, begun his own *persica* hybrids by the early 1980's. Using 'Baby Love' as the pollen parent, he obtained several relevant 'Tigris' siblings like 'Tiggle' and 'Tingle', released as 'Tiger eyes' in South Africa. These series was instrumental for other breeders, including Peter Harkness who released 'Persian Mystery', 'Alissar, Princess of Phoenicia' and 'The Sun and the Heart'. Chris Warner brought together a small group of amateur rose breeders (from the ARBA) enabling them to put roses of the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> generations, highly resistant to disease, onto the market. Using the 'Blue for You' line of Peter James, they released two beautiful roses with a distinct blue eye, 'Eyes for You' and 'Pejamigo', introduced in Australia under the name Bowral's Rose. The last rose trials in Lyon, during the WFRS world convention 2015, allowed us to wonder at further first-class healthy roses.

Parallel to the 'Tigris' adventure, other breeders placed their bets on 'Euphrates' and were successful. While appearing sterile, 'Euphrates' seems to occasionally possess a bit of viable pollen. Hence, Jan Diedag Janssen, near Hamburg created 'Persian Butterfly'. The Dutch grower Peter IJssink created for the firm Interplant, the lovely series 'Babylon Eyes', first introduced in Japan.



'Euphrates'-(HARunique)

The firm Meilland International has also developed their own plants, including, 'Eyeconic' (MElpouzmoi), a small once-blooming climber with yellow flowers and a deep red center. Jacques Mouchotte, head of Meilland's hybridisation program, during his presentation given at the regional WFRS in Barcelona in May 2014, said that the ancestors of the Meilland *Persica* hybrids come directly from the primary descendants of Alec Cocker and Jack Harkness but are distinct from 'Tigris' and 'Euphrates'. This means there is a third independent strain: a story to be followed.

## Conclusions

The hybrids of *Rosa persica* have exploded onto the modern rose market. The craze for the new « hibiscus look alike » roses is not recent as shown with the 1836 success of *Rosa x hardii*. Thanks to the considerable efforts of a handful of passionate rose breeders, a large selection of plants, increasing the range of colors along with the reblooming gene<sup>11</sup>, are now available, stemming from at least three primary ancestors at the base, with the aim to solving the problems both of fertility and disease resistance. The fertility problem lay not only in how far removed the sub-genus *Hulthemia* is from the roses that breeders attempted to cross them with, but also in part the change brought to the ploidy. By chance, a few achenes found in an unexpected hip, or a few grains of fertile pollen profoundly changed history in the different chapters of this adventure. In the end, in its natural habitat, *Rosa persica* had no need to develop sophisticated genes to combat invasive fungoids, which do not occur in arid regions. Therefore, the primary hybrids were particularly vulnerable to disease in our mild countries. After 50 years of courageous selective breeding, the 5<sup>th</sup> generation, such as 'Eyes for You' are worthy of being in any of our gardens, which are becoming more and more environmentally friendly.

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'Eyes for you' (PEJbigeye)



'The Sun and the Heart'(HARtyre)



'Bowral's Rose' (PEJamigo)

This article was originally published in December 2014 in the bulletin of the association *Roses Anciennes en France*. I am grateful to Nimet Monasterly-Gilbert, Alan Gilbert, Becky Hook and Christiane Morizot for helping with archives.

*Dr. Pascal Heitzler is a renown geneticist from the University of Strasbourg. His special interest is the genetics of roses and has created his own experimental garden in Colmar, France. He has published numerous scientific papers, as well as articles in various rose journals, including an article on recurrent blooming in roses in BAON issue 11.*

## **THE HERITAGE ROSES NORTHLAND PILGRIMAGE 2014**

**by Fiona Hyland**

You missed a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity when you did not join the Heritage Roses Northland Pilgrimage in November last year. To tread in the footsteps of the missionaries who brought the first roses to this country, and to see that rose still growing in that very spot... You definitely missed something unique.

There were no roses in New Zealand before the missionaries arrived in December 1814. There were Europeans here – mostly whalers and sealers shuttling back and forth between this country and the rest of the world – but roses formed no part of their life here. It was not until the missionaries arrived to showcase the advantages of Western civilisation that roses and indeed, flower gardening, came to this country.

The idea of celebrating 200 years of growing roses in New Zealand by visiting the site where they were first grown was the vision of Fran Rawling, then President of Heritage Roses New Zealand. Fran floated the idea to the Northland Convenor, Olga Yuretich, and we are all entirely indebted to Olga for accepting the challenge of turning this vision into magnificent reality. From all of us on the Pilgrimage: thank you Heritage Roses Northland for an unforgettable experience.

From the moment we climbed out of tiny planes at the Kerikeri Airport, the magic of the Bay of Islands enveloped us. Perhaps it was the warmth – I had left Dunedin in a hail storm – or perhaps it was the soft quality of the light or the idyllic scenery that enchanted us.

We were welcomed to the Waitangi Copthorne with huge smiles and a goody bag that contained an astonishing array of treasures, including a lavishly illustrated book, *A Timely Tale About Roses*, written by a Northland member, Colleen Thompson, and list of roses grown in the gardens of eight other members. The latter is a valuable resource, containing not only those that flourish in the region, but those that do not.

The mention of failure allows me to segue neatly into my part of the Pilgrimage: delivering the after dinner speech on the first night of the Pilgrimage. I had brought my laptop, but from the first sight of the data projector, I knew we had a problem. The Copthorne did not have the necessary connector; nor was there a laptop that could connect to the projector, nor a connector to be found in nearby Paihia. It was soon apparent that there would be no Powerpoint presentation after dinner, but there had to be some presentation. When the time came, I delivered the after-dinner address in the dark. That's right: the Copthorne staff turn off all the lights, and in the pitch black, I spoke to "A brief (and now unillustrated) history of rose growing in New Zealand". The inspiration for this desperate measure was our newest new staff member at University of Otago Graduate Research School, Dr Karyn



Waitangi

Paringatai, whom we had welcomed the day before I left. Karyn received the prestigious 2014 New Zealand Tertiary Teaching award for reviving the ancient – and effective – Maori practice of learning in the dark. I took that as a sign. With the presentation on my iPad and the support of the audience's imagination, we together traversed 200 years of growing roses. When the lights went back on, I was relieved to find the audience still there, and still awake.

I tumbled into bed too exhausted to walk the dark grounds in search of kiwi birds, and slept soundly until an incredibly loud dawn chorus woke us. There was to be no sleeping in on this pilgrimage: we were up and breakfasting before seven every morning, and on the buses soon after. There were two buses, named "Rosa Eglanteria" and "Slater's Crimson China" in honour of the first two roses to come to New Zealand. Our bus hostess Jennifer Crawford was a fabulous font of good humour with ready answers for our many ignorant-townie questions, while Annette Sicely ably hostessed "Slater's Crimson China".

Our first visit was to Stella and John Leather's garden. This was the first opportunity for many of us to observe 'Slater's Crimson China'. This was just one of the family roses that included the recently-identified *Rosa helenae* 'Samling', that have been handed down through the generations to Stella from her missionary ancestor, James Shepherd, New Zealand's first horticulturalist. Stella's roses, and indeed all the roses we saw in Northland, were at the peak of their flowering season, in excellent health – this despite atrocious weather over the past twelve months, and were all named for our benefit. This garden, set in an old orange orchard, charmed us with the fragrance and beauty of the remaining gnarled orange trees. Except for New Zealand's miserly baggage allowance we would have picked up the windfall fruit and taken them back south to our cold citrus-free gardens.

The highlight of the trip came next: the visit to Marsden's Cross at Oihi Cove at Rangihoua, the site of the first mission settlement in New Zealand, and where roses first arrived in this country.

The weather was perfect, the company exceptional, and those able walked from the top of the steep hill down to the cove, and were thankful for the 4WD vehicles providing transport to those in need. The Marsden Cross marks the spot where Samuel Marsden preached the first Christian service on Christmas Day, 1814, three days after the three missionary families landed. The finding of one of the original Sweet Briar bushes beside Marsden's Cross was the icing on a magical cake. There is not one of us who will not treasure that moment forever. Enormous thanks again are due to our Northland members: it was only

their presence at the Cross during the Pilgrimage planning that prevented these historic bushes from being cleared by over-enthusiastic Council workers.

One would be forgiven thinking that was enough glory for one day, but we climbed back up the hill to buses and were spirited away to afternoon tea at Kemp House and the Stone Store at Kerikeri, and a chance to explore New Zealand's second mission station,



*Marsden's Cross at  
Oihi Cove at Rangihoua*

established in 1822. Kemp House was built for missionary John Gare Butler in the Colonial Regency style, and is the oldest wooden building in New Zealand. The garden plan for this site, submitted to English committee for approval, is held in the Hocken Library in Dunedin, and shows twin 2m circular flower gardens in front, with the note that these were filled with roses, lilies, sweet williams, pinks, and marigolds. Presently there is a



Stone Store at Kerikeri

single large flower bed in front of the house, which is the more usual design for a Georgian house. While there are no roses within it, there are many roses planted in front of the verandah, and in beds bordering a path to the side road, and some very old roses growing behind the house. These roses included 'Slater's Crimson China' (brought overland to Kemp House from Oihi by Samuel Butler), 'The Bishop', 'Mme Plantier', known here as "The Bride's Rose", *Rosa multiflora carnea*, the ubiquitous Northland rose, 'Souvenir de Mme Léonie Viennot', and the rootstock *Rosa indica* 'Major'.

The first mention of Cabbage roses – Centifolia roses in this country comes to us from the writings of George Clark Jr, who with his family lived here in between the Butlers and the Kemps. In recollecting his childhood, he wrote of the death of his baby sister from whooping cough, and of his father taking him by the hand to pick a half-open bud to place in his dead sister's hand. These roses came to this country, as did all the missionaries' roses, from Sydney, Australia.

And still we were not done! From Kerikeri we returned to Waitangi, to visit the Treaty Grounds, where our founding document, *The Treaty of Waitangi*, was signed in 1840. After exploring the Maori Meeting House, and having all our questions answered by our guide, we walked back to the Copthorne for dinner. We were too tired to seek out kiwis that night: how I regret that now!

The next day we boarded a launch and cruised over to Russell to visit Pompallier House. The Catholic mission to New Zealand, under Bishop Pompallier, was established in Russell, formerly known as *Kororāreka*, the "Hell-Hole of the Pacific" where whalers and sealers enjoyed themselves rather thoroughly. Although for many years this was a family home surrounded by Edwardian gardens, the pisé-de-terre building originally housed a printery to produce religious texts in Maori, and Heritage New Zealand have returned the building to its original appearance and established a working printing museum. Here we enjoyed one of our favourite activities: naming old roses. 'Old Blush' is the rose so closely associated with Bishop Pompallier, that in some regions it was known as "the Bishop's rose". The Roman Catholic Bishop, as did the Anglican Bishop Selwyn after him, sailed up and down New Zealand visiting their flocks, but it was Pompallier that gifted his parishioners with 'Old Blush'. Well-established bushes of the "Chestnut Rose" (syn. *Rosa roxburghii*), were growing here, as they do throughout Northland. There is some mystery about the origins of this rose in New Zealand that may never be explained. It is possible that this was a rose that came directly to this country with some early sea captain.

There was just time to explore Russell (and shop) before catching the ferry back to Paihia, and boarding busses to the Kawakawa Hundertwasser Toilets. Nowhere else in New

Zealand, or perhaps the world, are toilets the main tourist attraction in a town, but they are in Kawakawa, though we were also entranced by the steam train chuffing down the very middle of the main street. Note to tourists: they don't stop for pedestrians on the crossing. (\*)

Our next stop was Whangarei. We lunched at the Art Studio and visited the adjoining Reyburn House. Both have the most gorgeous old rose plantings created by the Northland branch with grants from HRNZ. At the time of our visit the rose bushes were absolutely dripping with blooms. We Dunedin ladies were green with envy over the staggering growth the most recent planting had put on in just eighteen months. Our hats go off to you, Northland members for establishing these plantings, and in particular to Virginia Holder for maintaining them.

After lunch we made our way to the smallest of the gardens we were to visit, which was a complete gem. With an unerring eye for colour and texture, Robyn Carr-Smith has created a masterpiece. We lined up and made our way very slowly around the garden, pausing at every step as we found some new planting or effect to admire. It is a measure of this garden that it led some owners of very large gardens to muse that downsizing might not be as bad as they feared. Our wonderful bus hostess suggested re-tour the garden, but travel in the opposite direction. We greeted her suggestion with scepticism, having thoroughly examined the garden, but did as she suggested. We were utterly enchanted at the different views and perspective gained on the reverse journey. I would unreservedly recommend this practise.

Our next stop was at Waipu. In honour of the many Scots who first settled this region, we were welcomed with the skirl of bagpipes and piped into Podgora Gardens, the home of Paul and Sonja Mrsich, who are so well known to Australian rosarians. Afternoon tea was served here, and we wandered through a stand of Northland native bush to admire several differently themed garden areas, all showcasing Sonja's floral artistry, and the authentic "Dally" (Dalmatian) gum-digger's shanty the Mrsichs have built to celebrate their heritage. There were many envious admiring inspections of their collection of spectacularly weathered limestone rocks, the largest of which provides a sensational focal point for their formal rose beds. Again the roses were clearly labelled, allowing careful notes to be made and additions made to wish lists.

We returned to Whangarei for dinner, and had just enough energy to be enchanted by little Slater's Crimson China soaps decorating our pillows, before we fell soundly asleep.

My roommate and I slept right on through the alarm, and had to scramble to board the bus in time. Our first stop was at Laurence and Noeline Hillier's Rustyc Garden. Noeline has planted Hybrid Perpetual roses to compliment her Edwardian villa, and they attracted a great deal of enthusiastic attention. Their picture-perfect blooms splangled with raindrops inspired a flurry of photography. Quirky verses in picture frames and recycled/repurposed materials complemented the masses of roses and iris. I anticipate there will be much imitation (being the sincerest form of flattery) in gardens further south.

Having admired Virginia Holder's care and management of the Whangarei rose plantings, we were amazed to find that she also maintains a very large farm garden to an equally high standard. Abundant bird life, abundant blooms on roses in bushes and climbers wending their way up through and over trees left a lasting impression. A country-lavish morning tea on the deck admiring the expansive views left us sated.

Our bus was utterly blessed in having Jennifer Crawford as our hostess. On our way to our next garden, we were fortunate enough to be able to stop for a whistle-stop tour of a very special garden.

Known to all of us in Heritage Roses as Aunty Vera, Jennifer's aunt sadly passed away recently before the Pilgrimage. I know she would have loved to have been part of it, and would have been tickled that we managed to squeeze in one last visit to her beloved garden before it changed hands.

At Dargaville we lunched at Ian and Jenny Stoddart's garden, which has been fifty years in the making, and features oaks trees Ian grew from acorns. Many of the old roses in the garden were rescued from the increasing shade four years ago by Northland members, and planted in a new garden bed, where they are thriving. Whereas the Hillier's garage had sported an enormous 'Bloomfield Courage' rose, the Stoddard's garage featured 'Francois Juranville', and I began to wonder quite why my garage is without roses. The arrival of the local Dalmatian music group with their balalaikas and accordians transformed this garden visit into something extraordinary. I am always surprised at how much music enhances our experience of beautiful gardens – and how seldom we think to include it.

After lunch we toured our bus hostess' garden. Jennifer has planted old roses, many of them cuttings-grown, all along the roadside of her property and up her long drive. It took us some considerable time to reach the garden proper, and enjoy the old roses, modern roses, perennials, camellias, fruit trees, and the very impressive vegetable garden. Many thanks for letting us visit your garden, Jennifer. We were all utterly impressed that your garden was in such fabulous order with all the organising you undertook for the Pilgrimage.

But wait: there was still more! We travelled along, passing by kumara farms – a novelty to us Southern ladies – and Kaipara, the world's second-biggest harbour, to reach Matakohe. We were all looking forward to visiting Totara House, having read of the Northland ladies planting roses there in our HRNZ Journal. The owner, 102 year old Mavis Smith, had recently passed away, having spent almost her entire life there. Touring the house was like stepping back in time.

Those who had been sceptical at the idea of visiting the nearby Kauri Museum were soon soaking up the history of Northland's kauri industry and pioneer settlement and admiring their collection of machinery, kauri gum, history, and furniture exhibits .



*Virginia Holder's garden*

Northland Heritage Roses have created extensive plantings of roses around the Museum buildings. Again we were overwhelmed at the growth they had made in eighteen months and their great good health. We had dinner at the Memorial Hall beside the Museum and boarded the bus for the long night drive back to Whangarei.

Our last day of the Pilgrimage was equally packed with gardens and roses. We arrived at Grant and Lyn Parker's Pukewai garden at Kaiwaka. This was a garden on a large scale. There was a very large pond – a young lake, really – stocked with glass carp who splashed and displayed their shark-like fins throughout our visit. The park-like gardens were truly lovely, but the enclosed courtyard behind the house was so beautifully planted that it took a great deal of will-power to leave.

The last garden of the Pilgrimage before the drive into Auckland to attend the Auckland Heritage Roses' Party in the Park celebration of 30 years of the Nancy Steen Garden, was to Olga and George Yuertich's Nova Podgora garden at Te Hana. There were roses everywhere in this beautiful large garden. This was our last opportunity to thank Olga, Jennifer, Annette, and their teams of willing workers for the most wonderful event of 2014.

My abiding memory of Nova Podgora is of peace – that quiet ambience that greets you when you reach home. I sat under the trees beside the drive and listened to the breeze playing in the leaves and the distant happy voices, and felt utterly content. I could quite happily have sat there forever.

(\*) *For those fascinated by the mention of Kawakawa's Hundertwasser Public Toilets, there are a number of sites with photos that show why, justly, they are a tourist attraction.*

*Fiona Hyland was previously editor of the "Heritage Roses New Zealand Journal" and the founding editor of "by any other name", continuing through its Eleventh issue in April 2014. Contact: f.hyland@ihug.co.nz*

## **MY FAVOURITE NANKEEN YELLOW TEA ROSE:**

### **'LADY HILLINGDON'**

***by Di Durston***



**'Lady Hillingdon'**  
Lowe & Shawyer, UK, 1910  
'Papa Gontier' (T) X 'Mme Hoste' (T)  
Sport: 'Clb. Lady Hillingdon', Hicks,  
UK. 1917

It is a wintery afternoon and I look up from my computer to gaze out of the window in the study. There is a light sun shower outside and I see the Tea Rose 'Lady Hillingdon' with its old gold blooms flowering behind the iron bench where I spend lazy moments sipping my mug of coffee. I am more than tempted to wander out and cut the blooms to bring them indoor, knowing that their considerable charm will enrich my day at the computer. I make a dash and cut what I can before a heavier winter downpour sets in for the day.

This rose was raised by Lowe and Shawyer of Uxbridge near Hillingdon, UK, in 1910 and by natural cunning in 1917 sent up a strong climbing shoot and thereafter has enjoyed an illustrious life. The rose was dedicated to the local lady of the manor in the area, Lady Alice Hillingdon of Hillingdon Court.

'Lady Hillingdon' has a blend of colours in both foliage and flowers that lifts her above the ordinary, making her one of the most distinguished survivors from Edwardian society. The wood is of deep maroon and the foliage is coppery-mahogany when young, turning to dark green with age. The colour of the rather shapeless blooms is of a beautiful apricot yellow and has the endearing feature of a nodding head. It is much hardier than Teas usually are. Climbing 'Lady Hillingdon' should be left to develop her own personality and pruned only when it is necessary to check the natural enthusiasm. Writing in a *Hortus* edition, Graham Thomas described the fragrance as of apricots in the morning and tea in the afternoon; this I have also found to be so. The

recorded parentage is 'Papa Gontier' x 'Mme Hoste', both of which are Tea Roses, but this is thought to be doubtful due to the fact that the chromosome count indicates a cross with a Hybrid Tea.

The day of Tea Roses is passing and it is understandable that other rose varieties are taking their place in modern gardens. However, there is an undoubted fascination in the Tea Rose. They are the most loved of all old roses and worthy of conservation.

*Di Durston, a member of HRIA since 1991, who served on two National Conference Committees, in the National Executive as Membership Secretary, co-ordinator of the Perth regional branch of Heritage roses, the first Chair of the WFRS Heritage Roses Committee, was one of the six co-authors of the award-winning book "Tea Roses, Old Roses for Warm Gardens." She has traveled to rose conventions and on private rose adventures to the UK, France, Germany, the USA, South Africa, Japan and New Zealand. Contact: di.durston@gmail.com*

## **IN MEMORIAM: ROBERT EDBERG III, 1929-2015**

A native of California, Bob Edberg served in the American Army in Germany during the Korean War. When he retired after more than 30 years as an executive of Capitol Records in Hollywood, he set up his own company, Limberlost Roses, which sold old garden roses as well as rose books. Bob received many honors in his lifetime, including The Huntington Botanic Rose Garden's Lester F. Harrell Award For Significant Contributions to the Study, Preservation and Popularity of Old Roses in 1999, and The 2011 Great Rosarians Friend of the Rose Award in recognition of his dedication to Preserving and Publishing Rare Rose Books. The editors are grateful to his wife Kathleen for allowing us to publish extracts from the eulogy given by Paul Zimmerman at Bob's memorial service where tributes from the world over were read.

*"It was never the easiest place to find...Limberlost Roses and it's where all of us who love the old roses first met Bob...(who) was always generous with his knowledge of roses. He assembled one of the most amazing rose book, rose catalog and rose magazine collections in the world.... His generosity is shown in his life's mission to share that library by reprinting as much of the material as he could. Just one example is his multi-volume Encyclopedia of Antique Roses... I would also like to add that without Kathy teaching herself to type French much of it would not have happened... Bob loved the Hybrid Perpetual roses... He kept a plastic index card case and in it were cards of Hybrid Perpetuals, each meticulously cross referenced in every book, catalogue and magazine in his collection. Last count it contained over 4,000... Most extinct and lost to time but to Bob very much alive in his collection of thousands of hand colored plates... If you asked Bob his opinion on something regarding roses he'd be sure to give it to you. It would be unfiltered, honest and always kindly given... As we all got to know Bob better we learned he love more than roses...literature...chess..and rescued pussy cats. More than anything else in the world he loved his Kathleen... Bob now sits in Heaven's rose garden much the way he used to sit at that white table at Limberlost roses... Many others are there... They walk among the roses discussing...and when a particular beauty catches their eye they all pause to toast it with a proper pint of Old Speckled Hen."*



*Bob and Kathleen at the Huntington Botanical Gardens*

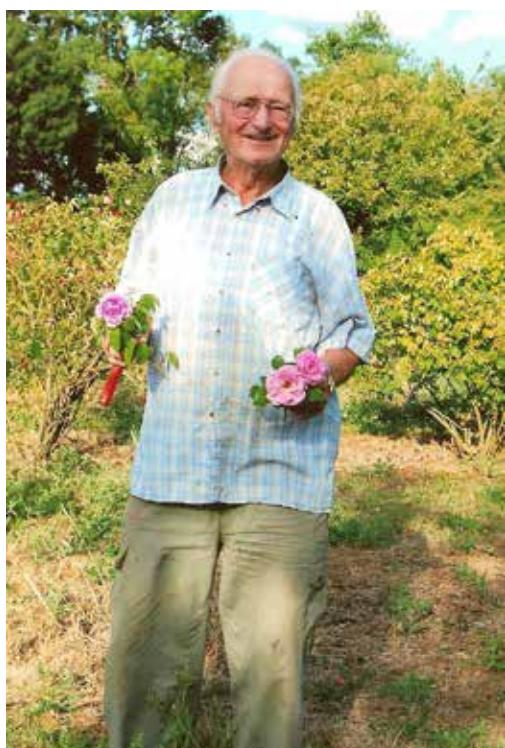
Paul Zimmerman is one of America's leading rosarians, grower, lecturer, consultant, and author: [paulzimmermanroses.com](http://paulzimmermanroses.com). Kathleen can be contacted at: [bkedberg@windstream.net](mailto:bkedberg@windstream.net)

## **IN MEMORIAM: RAYMOND LOUBERT, 1929-2015**

Bernard Loubert writes:

*"The professional history of Raymond Loubert began in Geneva, the city of his birth. He graduated with honors from the Châteleine Horticultural School. It was while working for Geneva's Parks and Gardens that he met Georges Delbard at the annual Golden Rose Contest. He accepted a position at Delbard's nurseries where he headed the research section for fruit trees from 1957 to 1963. He and his wife Thérèse then moved to Les Rosiers-sur-Loire in France, where they purchased "Les Brettes," a Nineteenth century farmhouse with a few hectares of farmland. The first years were hard as establishing orchards and nurseries took time. There was competition from the many other growers in the area, but the Loubert*

*strawberries, raspberries and cherries found eager clients in the top pasty shops in the nearby large city Angers. The Loubert rose collection began in the 1970s, when having developed relations with rose breeders Vilmorin, Delbard and others, they contracted to him their new roses for propagation and sale. Years of hard work resulted in many friendships and linkages with other rose gardens, rose nurseries and rose lovers worldwide. In 2001 the Loubert Collection was awarded the status of a National Collection for Heritage and Species roses by the C CVS (a French government agency). It continues as a unique garden to this day, with between 3,500 and 4,000 different roses, attracting visitors from all over the world. Should you be one of them, please pause a moment and think of Raymond Loubert among those roses he cared so much for."*



The editors are grateful to Bernard Loubert for writing this special In Memoriam to his father.

Roses Loubert is now managed by Jérôme Chéné, with Thérèse and sons Bernard and Claude closely involved. For more information on this remarkable family and rose collection, consult ROSA MUNDI (Vol 23, No. 1) for articles by Gregg Lowery and by Bernard Loubert.

**Report of the Heritage Rose Related Matters  
at the First WFRS Executive Meeting in Lyon 2015  
by David Elliott, Vice President, North America**

At the meeting, a doubt was raised on the status of the Conservation and Heritage Committees. Historically the first WFRS Heritage Committee meeting was held in 2009 in Vancouver, Canada, chaired by David Ruston. At the 2012 World Convention in South Africa a joint meeting of the Conservation and Heritage Committees were held, chaired jointly by David Ruston and Helga Brichet. In Lyon the joint meeting was chaired by Yuki Mikanagi.

The Executive in Lyon discussed this and felt that the objects of the two committees were very similar, and since the preservation of Heritage roses is the crucial task for both, it was logical and necessary to combine them.

After discussions between Kelvin Trimper (WFRS President) and David Ruston, it was recommended that it be called the WFRS Conservation and Heritage Committee. One of the responsibilities of the combined committee will be to assist the organization of Triennial International Heritage Rose Conferences, either in combination with a regional conference, or independently. Meetings of the Heritage rose group can continue to be held at WFRS International Heritage Rose Conferences or at WFRS regional conventions, but any recommendation coming from such a meeting can only be regarded as one to be further discussed at the next triennial meeting of the combined committee.

Regarding the definition of Heritage we have found that both species and found roses should be considered heritage and that it is difficult to find a universal definition of heritage. After asking for input we got a very limited number of responses but they differed by country or region. There was also some comment that the word 'Heritage' was inappropriate and the 'Historic' would be better. It was noted that the Term 'Old Garden Roses' is used for a show classification and can include modern roses. This was reported to the Executive Committee and the recommendation was made to ask each country to prepare their own listings, preferably in a standard format, and to determine which rose varieties are at risk in their area. Heritage Roses New Zealand has an excellent example on their website.: <http://www.heritageroses.org.nz/rose-register>.

**Report of the Joint Meeting of the Conservation Committee  
and the Heritage Rose Committee in Lyon, 2015  
by Yuki Mikanagi**

At the joint meeting of the Conservation Committee and the Heritage Rose Committee in Lyon on the 30<sup>th</sup> of May, 2015, it was decided, following the suggestion from the executive committee, that the two committees: Conservation and Heritage Rose, were to be combined. The Council meeting accepted this decision.

After the convention, Mr. Kelvin Trimper, the WFRS President, and Mr. David Ruston, the

former chairman of the Heritage Rose Committee, discussed the matter and recommended that the new committee should be called the 'Conservation and Heritage Committee'.

The next International Heritage Rose Conference is to be held in Beijing, China in 2016, in combination with a regional convention.

See the website: <http://www.rosebeijing2016.org/en/>

### **<< Conclusions of the Joint Meeting >>**

- 1) From this year on, following the proposal from the executive committee, the two committees: Conservation and Heritage Rose, are to be combined. The Council meeting approved this decision on the 31<sup>st</sup>, May.
- 2) After the regional convention in Barcelona, we found difficulties in the techniques, budgets and manpower to renew the Rose Locator Database. Almost six years had passed since our original database was established, and now we could find many good databases on roses around the world. We thought it might be time to rethink of the roles the WFRS should play in promoting the conservation of heritage roses, and decided to discontinue the Rose Locator Database.
- 3) We will set up an *ad hoc* committee to investigate how the Federation's website can provide information on rose databases that exist around the world.
- 4) We will focus on more practical ways of preserving heritage roses and endangered rose gardens.

### **WFRS 2016 REGIONAL CONVENTION AND 14<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL HERITAGE ROSE CONFERENCE BEIJING, CHINA, MAY 18-24, 2016**

The 2016 Beijing Conference promises to be one of WFRS's most exciting, with sixteen lectures scheduled, daily tours to historic sites and rose gardens, special evening programs and dinners, and numerous pre-convention and post-convention tours throughout China. The convention online site is now open, and WFRS members are encouraged to make your reservations soonest since the numbers will be limited: [www.rosebeijing2016.org](http://www.rosebeijing2016.org)

The inauguration will take place during the Convention of a newly-constructed Rose Museum, housed in extraordinary architecture, with numerous exhibits ranging from roses in history to roses of the future, and with one section devoted to the WFRS, its past and present. The Museum curators are making a special call for exhibit items, as donations or loans. Again, we refer you to their site where detailed information on the type of items they seek is available.